GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008
IMPACT OF NREGS AND PMGSY
Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has commissioned any study on the impact of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) on migration and living condition in rural areas across different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to address these issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 19 for answer on 17/10/2008

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) notified on 7th September, 2005, covered 200 districts in its first phase, was extended to 130 additional districts in 2007-2008. All the remaining 284 districts have been covered with effect from April 1, 2008. Impact of a programme shows its result only after few years of implementation and it is too early to assess the impact of this programme. However, six studies have been commissioned during 2007-08 for a quick assessment of process and implementation of NREGA. Some of these studies have also collected feedback on migration. These studies have revealed that the nature of migration of labour has changed from family migration to individual migration. It is limited mainly to male migration while the female members continue to stay back and work on NREGA works. Impact on living condition reveals that, due to 100 days of guaranteed employment under NREGA, the bargaining powers of rural labourers have increased leading to increase in the minimum wage for agricultural labourers in several States.

In addition, National Level Monitors (NLMs) are also being deputed time to time for monitoring the impact of implementation of NREGA. During 2008-09, NLMs have been deputed in all 330 districts covered in 1st and 2nd phases to assess the impact of NREGA. The observations and findings of these NLMs on process and implementation of programme have been sent to the states for appropriate action.

In the year 2003-04, a Quick Study on the Socio- Economic Impact of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was organized. Positive impact on employment generation, industries, education sector and on social aspects was established. Recently, a social economic impact assessment and road User`s satisfaction survey of PMGSY is being undertaken. The first stage of the study has been completed where a Common Method Statement is developed and pilot study to field test the methodology and to carry out appropriate refinements is done.

The Government has taken a numbers of steps to improve implementation of the NREGA in view of feedback received from various sources. Strengthening of Information Education and Communication (IEC) have been done on priority, Planning for works have been strengthened by preparation of shelf of projects in each village Panchayats and improving efficiency at work sites and work execution have been done. The States have been advised to recruit dedicated staff on priority for NREGA implementation. Monitoring Information System (MIS) is operationalised and all information is placed in public domain. With a view to universalize the system of wage payments through institutional accounts, all States have been recommended to disburse wages through Post Offices and Banks Accounts. Social audit is made compulsory and local level monitoring is ensured. A help-line to assist all the stakeholders is established. Besides, the State have been advised to adopt a five- pronged strategy consisting of
(i) creation of awareness about the schemes,
(ii) transparency,
(iii) people`s partnership,
(iv) social audit through Gram Sabha and
(v) strict vigilance and monitoring.